

HUON HOOKE
CELLAR
TALK



Young blood ... Ballabourneen winemaker Daniel Binet. Photo: Peter Stoop

First vintage from generation next

Talented young Hunter Valley winemaker Daniel Binet has completed his first vintage for Ballabourneen, where he has gone into partnership with the brand's founder Tony Brown. The pair have leased the Tatler winery in Lovedale Road and Binet is also making the Tatler wines for the owners, the Isak family. Tatler is not far from

Capercaillie, where Binet worked as the late Alasdair Sutherland's right-hand man. Capercaillie continues to trade while Trish Sutherland considers the future. This year, wine was made by Monarch Winemaking Services - only from the estate vineyard: chardonnay, sparkling chardonnay, gewurztraminer and chambourcin.

Timing is everything

British retailers Tesco and Marks & Spencer are inviting critics to taste their wine ranges at times when the biodynamic calendar suggests they'll be at their best. The retailers' wine experts reckon the taste of wine changes

according to the lunar calendar phases. In short, fruit days are supposed to be better than root days. Britain's *Sunday Telegraph* reports the two big retailers sell about one-third of the wine drunk in Britain between them.

Stars in his eyes

What do you do when you're pitched out of the top job at Western Australia's biggest wine producer, a casualty of the recession? Rob Bowen, Constellation's WA chief winemaker and regional manager who leaves at the end of the month, sees it as an opportunity to do other things, such as marketing his own brand of wine in the US and China. "The Americans don't know about WA regions," he says. Another fantasy is making grenache and tempranillo in Spain or Portugal. "I'd be off like a flash if someone made me an offer over there," he says.



Shake for best results

McLaren Vale megastar Mollydooker Wines - darling of the US wine press - is recommending we shake their wines before we drink them. Mollydooker's 16.5 per cent alcohol whoppers get rave reviews by US opinion leaders *The Wine Advocate* and *Wine Spectator* magazine. The *Advocate* gave the '06 Velvet Glove Shiraz 99/100, and the *Spectator* put the '07 Carnival of Love Shiraz in eighth place in its list of the world's top 100 wines. Mollydooker's husband and wife team, Sparky and Sarah Marquis (pictured), say we need to pour half a glass out of the bottle, put the cap back on and shake the bottle vigorously, then reopen and pour. This is to remove dissolved nitrogen gas in the wine, which flattens the flavour and shortens the palate. The "Mollydooker shake" is recommended for red wines aged two years or less. See mollydookerwines.com.au.

Diary dates

May 9 The Menzies Sydney Tri-nations Wine Dinner, with the wines of Delamotte (Champagne), Domaine Joseph Cattin (Alsace), Spy Valley (Marlborough) and Kilikanoon (Clare Valley). Four-course degustation meal. Time: 6.30-11pm. Cost: \$125. Bookings: 8235 1710.

May 9 La Voce, a gourmet food and wine night to raise funds for Opera Australia, at OA's Paint Dock at the Opera Centre in Surry Hills. Three-course dinner prepared by James Kidman of Otto Ristorante, with entertainment by singers Taryn Fiebig, David Corcoran and Amy Wilkinson. Silent auction and limited live auction. Cost: \$250. Bookings: 9318 8335.

May 14 Brokenwood Wine Dinner with winemaker Iain Riggs, at the Terrace Restaurant Bar & Grill, in the Epping Club. Time: 7pm for 7.30pm. Cost: \$72. Bookings: 9876 4357.

May 20 Sails restaurant on Lavender Bay (under new ownership) is holding a series of "meet the winemaker" dinners. The first is with Mornington Peninsula winery Kooyong. Winemaker Sandro Mosele will talk about the wines and there is a five-course meal. Time: 7pm. Cost: \$105.

The Wineroom
Widestrange, most consistent pricing!

HALF PRICE!

Violets and prune flavours

99 Barwang Show Reserve Shiraz (trp \$40) \$18.50



Deep crimson with some brick red hues. Complex bouquet with aniseed, violets and prune flavours with just a hint of smoky vanillin. The rich palate exhibits abundant rhubarb and plum fruit seamlessly integrated with the spicy cedar characters of oak finishing long, warm and full of flavour.

Big and dense

02 Hare's Chase Barossa Valley Shiraz (trp \$40) \$18.50



"...it exhibits a dense purple colour in addition to a big peppery, blackcurrant and berry-scented nose with notions of white flowers and liquorice in the background. Deep & chewy with low acidity and medium to full body. This impressive 2002 will drink well for a decade." 92 points. RParker

Shiraz

- 07 Serafino McLaren Vale 22
- 07 Taylors Estate 12
- 06 Taylors Jaraman 22
- 07 Thorn-Clarke Sandpiper 13
- 05 Ebenezer 28
- 07 Barwang Hilltops NSW 14
- 06 Bests Bin 1 23
- 05 Brands Laira Coonawarra 15
- 05 Brini Blewitt Springs 19
- 05 Brothesin Ams Langhorne 35
- 06 Clayfield Massif 22
- 06 Coriole McLaren Vale 22
- 06 Dalwhinnie Pyrenees 50
- 06 Fire Block Old Vine 14
- 06 Five Geese McLaren Vale 15
- 05 Geoff Merrill McLaren 17
- 03 Geoff Merrill Reserve 35
- 07 Glaetzer Bishop 26
- 06 Gramps Barossa 14
- 07 Grant Burge Filsell 26
- 06 Grant Burge Miamba 15

Pinot Noir

- 07 Curlewis Bellarine 22
- 07 Curlewis Geelong 33
- 07 Serafino McLaren Vale 22
- 07 Taylors Estate 12
- 06 Taylors Jaraman 22
- 07 Thorn-Clarke Sandpiper 13
- 07 Quartaige 18
- 05 The Blend 14
- 06 Tim Adams The Fergus 20
- 06 Girt by Sea Cab Mrl 17
- 04 Marg Riv Cab Merlot 48

07 Escarpment Martinbr 38
07 Holm Oak Tamar Val 22
06 Huia Marlborough 34
06 Isabel Estate Marl 36
07 Moorilla Tasmania 33
06 Nepenthe Charleston 19
07 Neudorf Tom's Block 32
05 Panorama Huon Valley 25
Abouquet of violet, wild raspberry, and sweet cherries. The palate displays crushed berries and plums with overtones of game and forest floor. Elegantly balanced with intense fruit, silky texture and a very long finish.

07 Paringa Estate 66
08 Paringa PE 25
07 Quartz Reef C. Otago 42
07 Shelmerdine Yarra Val 26
06 Te Kairanga Estate 24

Other Reds

05 Chapman Grove Marg River Cab Merlot 14
Geoff Merrill
08 Grenache Rose 13
05 SGM 13
Grant Burge
07 Hillcot Merlot 14
03 Holy Trinity GSM 27
07 Leeuwin Prelude 24
07 Majella The Musician 15

Thorn-Clarke

07 Quartaige 18
05 The Blend 14
06 Tim Adams The Fergus 20
06 Girt by Sea Cab Mrl 17
04 Marg Riv Cab Merlot 48

Riesling

- 08 Brindabella ACT 15
- 08 Dal Zotto King Valley 13
- 08 Holm Oak Tamar Val 20
- 07 Leeuwin Art Series 17
- 08 Mitchell Clare Valley 16
- 08 Pipers Brook 20
- 07 Richmond Grove 15
- 07 St Helga Eden Valley 14
- 08 Taylors Jaraman 18

Chardonnay

- 05 Atticus Marg River 39
- 94 points - J-Halliday
- 06 Atticus Marg River 39
- 95 points - J-Halliday
- 07 Clyde Park Geelong 25
- 07 Curlewis Bellarine 23
- 06 Dalwhinnie Pyrenees 30
- 07 E & T Margaret River 16
- 08 Geoff Merrill Reserve 18
- 90 points - J-Halliday
- 07 Grant Burge Summers 16
- 05 Katnook Estate 22
- 07 Leeuwin Prelude 26
- 07 Moss Wood Marg River 50
- 07 Petaluma Piccadilly 40
- 07 Pipers Margaret River 59
- 07 Pipers Brook Estate 25
- 08 Plantagenet Omrah 14
- 07 Shaw & Smith M3 33
- 07 Taylors St Andrews 28
- 06 Tynrells Vat 47 38
- 94 points - J-Halliday
- 06 Voyager Estate Marg Riv 32
- 08 West Cape Howe Unwooded 13

Semillon

- 04 McWilliams Elizabeth 12
- 08 Tynrells Lost Block 11
- 02 Tynrells Vat 1 38
- 04 Tynrells Reserve Steven 18
- 93 points - J-Halliday

Sauvignon Blanc

- 08 Clifford Bay Marl 17
- 08 Dog Point Marl 25
- 07 Dominique Roge Sancerre 35
- 07 Grove Mill Marl - lim 16
- 08 Highgate Marlborough 14
- 08 Manson House Bay Marl 17
- 08 Montana Marlborough 13
- 08 Mud House Marl 14
- 08 Neudorf Nelson NZ 22
- 08 Oyster Bay Marl 14
- 08 Stoneleigh Marl 15
- 07 Te Kairanga Martinbrgh 23
- 08 Waipara Hills Marl 15

Pinot Gris/Grigio

- 07 Huia Marlborough 25
- 07 Isabel Estate Marl 23
- 08 Ninth Island 17
- 08 Pipers Brook 20
- 08 Waipara Hills Marl 20

Other Whites

- 08 Chapman Grove SSB 14
- 08 Cullen Mrg Riv White 18
- 08 Cullen SSB 28
- 08 E & T Marg River SBS 14
- 08 E & T Marg River Classic 12
- 08 Hay Shed Hill SBS 15
- 08 Leeuwin CDW 15
- 08 Leeuwin Siblings SBS 18
- 08 Pipers LTC SSB 25
- 08 Pitchfork Marg Riv SSB 12
- 08 Tahbilk Marsanne 11
- 08 Voyager Marg Riv SSB 18
- 08 West Cape Howe SSB 12

Sparkling White

- Blue Pyrenees Brut 06 21
- Deutz Cuvee NV 20
- Grant Burge P/C NV 21
- Lindauer Brut NV & Fraise NV 11

Best Party Wines

Top French at giveaway price

07 Sauvion Touraine France Sauvignon Blanc (trp \$24) \$14



Loire, France - this lively, crisp white offers loads of grapefruit and lemon flavours, intermingled with tasty mineral and herbs. Light-bodied, with a refreshing dry finish.

Bargain NZ savvy

08 Gunn Estate NZ Sauvignon Blanc (trp \$17) \$9



Fresh varietal aromas of citrus and gooseberry with delicate floral notes. Clean and fresh with lovely texture and mouthful flavours of citrus with hints of tropical fruits

Great value!! - Huon Hooke

07 West Cape Howe Cabernet Merlot (trp \$18) \$13



"...excellent ripeness, good cabernet character, firm but balanced tannins typical of these grape varieties lending structure and length to the palate. No excess of oak or alcohol...extraordinary value for money" 94/100 HHooke

Beat the price rise (going up \$5/bottle)

Piper-Heidsieck NV (trp \$60) \$40



The very first impressions are of bright, fresh mornings, reminiscent of spring blossoms. The palate is lively and fresh. The citrus notes take on a certain maturity. This wine is an expression of passion with gentleness and spontaneity.

Extra value

2005 Faber Vineyard Swan Valley Shiraz Cabernet (trp \$31) \$16



Dark, vibrant purple. Dense nose with blackberry, blackcurrant, malt, meat and the faintest hint of dried herbs and lavender. Rich, soft and structured. Lovely weight, length and shape in the mouth. Push. The tannins are firm, chewy and lingering. Excellent drink.

Prices ALL by the dozen (mixed included); minimum delivery 1 DOZ (Sydney Metro FREE)
Ordering: Ph: 02 9818-3077; Fax: 02 9818 3745; non-Sydney free-call: 1300 139 252; E. & O.E.
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